GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
WATER SCARCE BASINS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cauvery, Vaigai, Pannar, Sabarmati and some more East-West flowing river basins are considered as water scarce basins;

(b) if so, the per capita annual availability of water in these basins; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve per capita water availability in the said basins?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO(c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.317 TO BE ANSWERED (13.8.2001 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING WATER SCARCE BASINS

Any situation of water availability less than 1000 cum per capita is considered by the international agencies as scarcity conditions. Based upon this criterion and availability of water as per the latest assessment, six basins viz. Cauvery, Sabarmati, Pennar,West flowing rivers of Kutch & Saurashtra incl. Luni,East flowing rivers between Mahanadiand Pennar, and East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari fall into this category. Per Capita Water availability in 1991and in 2000(in Cubic Meter) is given below:

Sr.No.	River Basins	Per Capita Water availability in 1991 (Cubic Meter)	Per Capita Water availability in 2000 (Cubic Meter)
1.	Sabarmati	360	307
2.	East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari	366	311
3.	Pennar	651	550
4.	West flowing rivers from Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni	683	579
5.	Cauvery	728	619
6	East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	953	808

The National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Developmentenvisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for the optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA)as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of the National Perspective Plan. NWDAhas completed water balance and

prefeasibility studies of all the link proposals. NWDAhas identified 30 links for preparation of the feasibility report. Out of these, 9 links involved in the interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery rivers,and 3 links involved in diversion of other west flowing rivers towards east under Peninsular component envisage transfer of water to deficit basins of Cauvery and other east flowing rivers. Feasibility reports for three of the above links have been completed and for the rest of the links are planned to be completed by the year 2004. Under the Himalayan Component, interlinking of Ghagra & Sarda with Yamuna, Yamuna with Sabarmati via Rajasthan is also envisaged for which prefeasibility reports have been prepared. Implementation of such water transfer link proposals would depend on various factors like consensus among the basin States regarding the proposed transfer, preparation of detailed project reports and availability of funds etc.